TERM 3 – Week 3 Newsletter.

Hello to all the Preschool, Occasional Care and Playgroup families.

I have met many parents and grandparents over the past 3 weeks, but for those I have not met, my name is Susan Martin. I am an experienced Early Childhood Educator with experiences in a variety of Care and Education settings. My last appointment was as the Early Childhood Consultant for the APY Lands, supporting teachers and Aboriginal Workers in their schools and preschools.

I have had a very enjoyable 3 weeks since starting here at Mt Pleasant. The children are a wonderful group and I feel very fortunate to be working with them. Everyone has been very gracious and I thank you all very much. Being the third Director in the past 12 months I want to make the transition as smooth as possible for everyone.

Part of my role as the Director is to ensure the preschool is up to date with all of the requirements for the Commonwealth’s National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Services. Over the next 2 terms I will be displaying lots of information about the National Quality Standards so that all families understand what they are about; with the opportunity to ask questions about them. I will post the information in the Mt Pleasant Kindergarten Facebook page as well so that everyone who doesn’t come to preschool has the same access to the information. I will also be updating the official DECD website so that future families will be able to find where their local preschool is and what we offer.

TERM 3 PROGRAM

What a cold, wet and windy start we have had. Janet and I have had a little bit of time together to talk about the needs of each child and what we will be learning about this term. As well as all the other activities that the children do and ask for, we are talking about farm animals and numbers in a variety of contexts and finding lots of opportunities to emerge the children in literacy experiences.

Many of the children have talked about their farms and their pets. It would be great to be able to share this with all of the children to bring their learning to life.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO BRING IN SOME PHOTOS OF YOUR ANIMALS WE CAN PHOTOCOPY THEM TO DISPLAY ON THE PIN-UP BOARDS FOR THE CHILDREN TO TALK ABOUT THEM WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH US.

Janet has been making lots of wind construction with the children and has been teaching the children how to use Loom Bands. They made rings and bracelets.
We have planned an excursion for the preschool children to see the Cranky Bear presented by the Patch Theatre.

The cost is $10.00 per child – payable to the Kindy.

We have 2 parents who can transport 3 children each. We hope that other parents can drop off and pick up your own child if that is better for you.

WHERE  -  Barossa Arts & Convention Centre at Tanunda

WHEN  -  Tuesday 9 September

TIME  -  leaving the Kindy at 9am for the 10am performance.

I will be attending the special teacher’s session so that Janet and I can prepare the children for the play with planned experiences before they attend.

Permission slips will be posted in the next 2 weeks for parent’s approval.

**OCCASIONAL CARE WILL STILL BE ON FOR THE DAY.** Relief staff (Glen) will be at the preschool to assist Janice.

---

**Pre-Entry for children beginning preschool at Mt Pleasant in 2015**

Pre-entry this year will begin in Term 4 during Weeks 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Because the preschool must abide by staff to child ratios we are only able to take 5 children per session. Janet and I will organise the new children to attend 5 sessions over 5 weeks either in the morning from 9 – 11.45 or from 12.15 – 3pm. If you have a preference to mornings or afternoons we will do our best to accommodate your needs. The cost is the same as Occasional Care of $5.00 per session. Pre-entry is not compulsory; however it is a great way to get the children ready for preschool next year.

**Arrangements for Transition to School**

The schools in the local catchment areas to Mt Pleasant: Birdwood; Mt Pleasant; Mt Torrens and Springton have discussed having the same transition times for both Mt Pleasant and Gumeracha preschool children. Plenty of notice will be given to parents so they can arrange to take their child to school and to pick them up at the allocated time.

The schools will negotiate with parents and may be able to make other times available for new children to visit if parents are unable to take their child on the allocated transition days.

Transition will begin in Term 4 during Weeks 4-8, graduating slowly in time.
REMINDERS

- As soon as the sun comes out the jumpers come off. It helps us a lot if their names are written on the label so that we can give them to the right person.

- Children’s home toys are best left at home. If children want to bring something to show the other children that has an educational value we can share this at the children’s group time where we can support the children to speak to the group as well as help the other children to ask appropriate questions.

- If the weather starts to get sunny please bring a hat along to kindy for your child to wear and we will encourage them to wear it before Term 4 begins.

- Fees are due for Term 3 payable to Mt Pleasant & District Kindergarten.

Many of you are probably already aware of the incident at Birdwood where children were approached by an un-known man. Young children are very trusting. Even though you have probably taught them to be cautious they still don’t really understand the implications. The Governing Council talked about the issue and has asked that I pass on to everyone the website “Daniel Morcombe Foundation Inc” at www.danielmorcombe.com.au/. The website offers suggestions to parents about keeping children safe. It’s worth a look.

Governing Council Report

A note from the Governing Council.
The Kindy is holding a CarBoot sale at the Mt Pleasant farmers market on Saturday September 20 from 8-12. Help will be need from all parents either on that day OR before for sorting and pricing. An hour or two any time in your week is requested, it’s going to be a great way to make some much need funds AND clean out our over packed storage sheds. Donations will be welcome. The more we have to sell the better.
The Farmer Market Committee have also been very generous to allow us to do one of our terrific sausage sizzles at the twilight markets this Christmas and we are hoping it will become a regular gig.
The Christmas catalogue magazines will arrive shortly.
Class photos will be on Thursday 11th September, siblings are welcome to jump in the frame!
Many thank to Jo Randell and Jo Townley for making time this week to do panel training for the upcoming directors position.

Just a reminder of our council;
Mel Rosenberg (chairperson)
Mel Simmonds (vice chair)
Jo Townley (secretary)
Fiona Edwards (treasurer)
Jo Randell
Kerrie Speirs
Amanda Kratzer
Please feel free to talk to us in regards to fundraising.

Melissa Rosenberg
**FUNDRAISING**

Your Governing Council work very hard to support the Kindergarten. Being a small rural centre we don’t get the funding we would like for purchasing new equipment. The fundraising that the Governing Council does is therefore very important for the children’s learning.

THANKYOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT YOU GIVE THEM

---

**PHOTOS**

The professional photographer that came to the Kindy last year will be here again on **Thursday Sept 11th** to take photos of the children for families to purchase. Children in Occasional Care can have their photo taken as well if parents can bring them in. You may want to have the photo taken with their brother or sister if at the Kindy. Pricing will be not much more than last year.

MORE INFORMATION SOON.

---

**National Quality Standard**

The [National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care](#) applies to most long day care, family day care, preschools/kindergartens, and outside schools hours care services. The Framework is a national approach to the regulation and quality assessment of early childhood education and care services.

The Framework includes the following parts:

- Regulated **staff to Child Ratios**
- Regulated **qualifications** of all staff
- National **Laws and Regulations** that all Approved Services must abide by
- a national legislative framework that creates a **uniform national approach** to the regulation and quality assessment of education and child care services
- a Australia National Quality Standard that sets a **national benchmark** for the quality of education and care services
- a national **quality rating and assessment** process that rates services against the National Quality Standard and the national legislative framework

In each Newsletter I will provide you with more information about the National Quality Standards.